



Ben Amunwa

Year of Call: 2013

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Employment and discrimination

Ben Amunwa is an experienced employment lawyer who advises and assists employers and employees on grievances, disciplinary matters, dismissals, discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblowing, business transfers, wages and holiday disputes, union matters and modern slavery.

Ben has conducted complex trials in person and remotely via video-link, including several 15-day discrimination, victimisation and whistleblowing trials cases involving thousands of pages of evidence and multiple witnesses.

Ben's experience includes settlement negotiations, drafting (employment contracts, internal policies and pleadings) and representation in Tribunals, civil courts and before regulatory panels. He primarily focuses on the corporate, legal and public sectors but also accepts instructions from other fields or industries.

He provides practical and strategic advice, negotiation skills and effective representation at preliminary hearings, multi-day trials and appeals.

Owing to the breadth of Ben's practice, clients often request him when atypical points arise, such as wasted costs, self-incrimination, breaches of disclosure duties, data protection or immigration issues. Unusually, he has cross-examined numerous solicitors (including partners at magic circle law firms) in his employment trials, as well as questioning executive witnesses over sexual harassment allegations.

Ben has given training to employment law practitioners and has written an acclaimed guidebook for the Law Centres Network on employment rights (described by a Head of Employment as "incredibly useful and thorough"), plus many articles and blogs.

Articles

Ben Amunwa analyses the case of *Secretary of State for Business and Trade v Mercer* [2024] UKSC 12, in which the UK Supreme Court hands out a victory for the protection of Trade Union freedoms and workers' rights, finding the UK to be in breach of ECHR article 11 as section 146(2) of TULRCA fails to provide protection from detriment for workers participating in lawful strike action.

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Ben Amunwa analyses the case of *Omooba v Michael Garrett Associates Ltd (t/a Global Artists) & Anor* [2024] EAT 30, in which the EAT upheld the Tribunal's judgment, including its key finding that where a protected belief forms part of the context but not part of the reason for a decision, that will be insufficient to establish religion or belief discrimination.

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Recommendations

"He is thorough and dedicated. Ben is knowledgeable on immigration and asylum issues."

Chambers UK 2024

"Ben is well respected, responsive and efficient, providing a high quality of drafting and advocacy."

Chambers UK 2024

"He provides superb work that never needs amending and has good judgement."

Chambers UK 2023

"He is an extremely clever barrister, who provides excellent drafting and is also great with clients." "He is collaborative, responds quickly and is very dedicated."

Chambers UK 2022

"I will never understand how on earth Ben absorbed so much detail... In cross-examination of the other side's witnesses, Ben very artfully led those witnesses to make admissions that they had avoided. He blew their case wide open, making them admit that they should have taken steps to retain data, that they should not have deleted electronic data. These were witnesses at the top of the organisational chart."

Farzana Saiyed, Employment law client 2020

Academic qualifications

- BA Hons in English and Related Literature (1st Class), University of York
- BPTC (Very Competent), City University of London
- GDL (Distinction), City University of London

Scholarships

- Lord Denning Major Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Lord Brougham CPE Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

Professional bodies

- Administrative Law Bar Association ('ALBA')
- Education Lawyers Association ('ELAS')
- Employment Lawyers Association ('ELA')
- Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit)
- Bar Council, Race training panel
- Lincoln's Inn

Direct Access

Ben Amunwa is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.